

80  
Serials  
- 671  
84

# THE

MONTHLY



# GULL

BULLETIN

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**MAY MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 12th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Lecture Hall of the California Development Board, mezzanine floor of the Ferry Building.

Mr. F. N. Bassett will address the association on "The Musical Element in Bird Voices."



**MAY FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, May 15th, to Lafayette, Contra Costa County. San Francisco members will take 8:00 a. m. Key Route ferry and Sacramento Short Line (Oakland & Antioch) train at the mole. East Bay members may take train at College and Shafter Avenues, Oakland, at 8:35 a. m. Purchase round trip tickets to Lafayette; fare from San Francisco, \$1.43; from Oakland, \$1.12. Bring lunch and drinking water. Leader, Miss Eva F. Griffin.



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE APRIL MEETING:** The fifty-first regular meeting of the Association was held on April 14th, in the Ferry Building, with President Kibbe in the chair; Miss Ames acting as Recording Secretary; thirty members and guests in attendance.

Mr. Lastreto submitted the resolution authorized by the March meeting, commending the work of the Fish and Game Commission and deprecating any change in organization or methods, and the same was ratified.

After some discussion of the question of time of stated meetings, it developed that the members present felt that the association should adhere to the custom of holding regular meetings on the second Thursday of the month, and a motion to this effect was carried unanimously.

The President urgently requested members to send in notes of personal experiences in bird observation for publication in the Gull.

Mr. Joseph Mailliard then entertained the association with an exhibition of his extensive series of slides picturing "The Gulls of San Francisco Bay" in every conceivable attitude, together with maps showing the breeding ranges and migrations of each species. With the slides were shown specimens of the various birds, as well. Supplementing this very interesting lecture, there is printed hereafter a descriptive list of the ten species which are recorded as occurring on and about the Bay.

After the adjournment of the meeting, the Board of Directors elected Mr. Charles H. Baker, Oakland, to membership.

## THE GULL

### THE GULLS OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

**Glaucous.** *Larus hyperboreus*. 30-in. Head, white. Neck, lightly clouded in winter. Mantle, very light pearl blue. Wings, white tips; no dark feathers. Tail, white. Feet, pale flesh or yellowish. Bill, yellow with red spot at angle on lower mandible. Iris, yellow. This gull also has a rare white phase. Breeds in the Arctic. Status on bay, rare winter visitant.

**Glaucous-Winged.** *Larus glaucescens*. 27-in. Head, white. Neck, clouded in winter. Mantle, light bluish gray. Wings, white tips; no dark feathers. Tail, white. Feet, flesh color to dark coral. Bill, light yellow with orange spot at angle on lower mandible. Iris, dark. Breeds along Pacific coast of Alaska. Status on bay, common winter visitant, all about the bay; follows ferry boats; notably vigorous on the wing.

**Western.** *Larus occidentalis*. 24 to 27-in. Head and neck, sparkling white. Mantle, dark, slaty gray. Wings, black tips with white spots. Tail, white. Feet, flesh color to orange. Bill, bright yellow with vermilion spot at angle on lower mandible. Iris, dark. Breeds along Pacific coast of United States and Lower California. Status on bay, abundant resident; follows ferry boats.

**Herring.** *Larus argentatus*. 23 to 26-in. Head, white. Neck, streaked. Mantle, light gray. Wings, black tips with white spots. Tail, white. Feet, light flesh color. Bill, bright yellow with vermilion spot at angle on lower mandible, and sometimes a small black one just behind it. Iris, light yellow. Breeds along the Great Lakes, through New York and New England, Newfoundland and throughout the Arctic. Status on bay, rare winter visitant; rarely follows ferry boats.

**California.** *Larus californicus*. 20 to 23-in. Head, white. Neck, streaked, except on breeding grounds. Mantle, light gray, somewhat darker than the following. Wings, black tips with white spots. Tail, white. Feet, dusky lemon color. Bill, yellow, slightly greenish, with vermilion spot at angle on lower mandible and a black spot just above it, forming, with a black spot on upper mandible, an incomplete band. Iris, dark. Breeds inland, western United States and Canada. Status on bay, commonest species; more numerous in winter; inveterate follower of ferry boats.

**Ring-Billed.** *Larus delawarensis*. 20-in. Head, white. Neck, spotted in winter. Mantle, delicate bluish gray. Wings, black tips with few white spots. Tail, white. Feet, greenish yellow. Bill, greenish yellow, encircled at angle with a broad band of black. Iris, light yellow. Breeds inland, northern United States and Canada. Status on bay, fairly common winter visitant.

**Short-Billed.** *Larus brachyrhynchus*. 18-in. Head, white. Neck, white, but, with head and breast, mottled with dusky in winter. Mantle, light bluish gray, darker than *delawarensis*. Wings, black tips with few white spots. Tail, white. Feet, greenish yellow. Bill, short, stout, greenish, with yellow tip. Iris, brown. Breeds in Alaska and northwest Canada. Status on bay, fairly common winter visitant, generally on mid-bay.

**Heermann.** *Larus heermanni*. 18 to 20-in. Head, white, merging on neck into dusky ash; red ring around eye. Mantle, slaty brown, lighter on rump. Wings like mantle, with black tips, edged with white. Tail, black, narrowly edged with white. Feet, dusky red. Bill, bright carmine with outer third black. Iris, dark. Breeds along coast of Lower California and western Mexico. Status on bay, common visitant in summer and fall, some lingering during winter; follows ferry boats.

## THE GULL

**Bonaparte.** *Larus philadelphia*. 14-in. Breeding plumage: Head, black; eyelids edged with white. Neck, white. Mantle, pearl blue. Wings, black tips, with small white spots. Tail, white. Feet, coral red. Bill, short, black. Iris, dark. Winter changes in plumage: Head, white, with dark spot back of eye. Neck not quite white. Feet, flesh color. Immature birds resemble winter adults, but have brownish wash over mantle and wings; black edges to wings and sub-terminal black bar on tail. Breeds in Alaska and northwestern Canada. Status on bay, common in both migrations, often lingering into winter. Found in mid-bay and along Key mole and at other points along shore. Habitually hovers and plunges to surface of water for food, somewhat like a tern. Wing flapping, rapid.

**Sabine.** *Xema sabini*. 14-in. Head, dark slate, with narrow edging of black around neck. Neck, white. Mantle, slaty blue. Wings, black ends, tipped with white, formed by first five primaries. Other primaries, white. Tail, white, forked one and one-quarter inch deep. Feet, black. Bill, black to angle, with yellow tip. Iris, reddish. Breeds in the Arctic. Status on bay, rare visitant. Resembles Bonaparte gull, save for forked-tail and five outer primaries which are entirely black, except for small white tips.

NOTE: The dimensions following the names are the lengths ascribed to the birds. The word feet may be construed to include legs. The foregoing data should enable the field identification of any adult gull found in California, except rare visitants in the south. Space forbids any attempt to include the mottled young and adolescent stages herein.

A. S. KIBBE.



## APRIL NOTES FROM MENDOCINO COUNTY

Perhaps the most interesting trip thus far has been that of April 20th to a rookery of great blue herons in a clump of large redwoods, something like a mile and a half from the Russian River, from which they obtain fish. Perhaps twenty-five or thirty large birds were at the rookery in the mid-afternoon. Four nests were in view, occupied by birds. A second visit will be made in May, when the young can be studied, and there will, doubtless, be many more nests. Although perhaps ungainly in flight, the great birds often assumed graceful poses high up in the trees.

A most amusing affair has been the daily rehearsal of a robin, probably a year old. Between 6 and 7 p. m., with the whole flock gathered about an open pasture, this young blood would start to tune up, but there was something wrong with his song box, for after a first note, he would give forth only a squeak. The others seemed to be trying to encourage his efforts and all kept silence. This performance was given daily for more than a week, but with no noticeable improvement in the use of the throat.

The brown thrasher here is so tame that he does his scratching in plain view, with no effort to hide. At a ranch house further up the hill, a thrasher often comes on the porch where the whole family is gathered.

Lark sparrows are common and also chipping sparrows. In fact, the birds are so numerous that, instead of isolated pairs of a dozen of a kind, as about the Bay, there are whole flocks, reminding one of Mrs. Porter's accounts of "Limberlost" days.

Band-tailed pigeons and road-runners are in evidence. The dwarf hermit thrush is still greeting the dawn (April 28th). Is it possible that he goes only as far as Mt. Sanhedrin to nest and so is in no great haste to leave? Snow is still on that mountain.

The rufous hummer is common here, and I note the Harris woodpeckers in place of the Cabanis of the Bay region. Last week a little Gairdner wood-

## THE GULL

pecker insisted upon drilling into a board near my back door, although there was no hope of his securing any food therefrom. Shortly, another male appeared and a real fight was staged right before me. Then they both pretended to be working the same tree, with frequent seraps when approaching each other. The lady in the case wisely kept out of sight.

A teacher of the Fourth Grade in Hopland, Mrs. Wood, is a most enthusiastic bird lover and is taking her ehildren out regularly for field work. I had the pleasure of joining them on a trip last week and found them all keenly interested. Once a year, in April, she has a "bird day," when each pupil dresses to represent a bird and recites something appropriate.

The birds of the valley and along the Russian River are quite different from those up here in the hills. I hope to begin studying them in a week or so, as the river is only a mile and a half distant. Great flocks of blue birds are up here and a pair came to my porch a few days ago and distinctly told me that they would be glad to nest on my cottage if provided with a suitable box.

Duncan Springs.

EVA D. ROE.



**APRIL FIELD TRIP** was taken on Sunday, April 17th, to Niles Canyon. The clans gathered at various times, by train, auto-stage and automobile, but when the last straggler arrived, the party assumed goodly proportions. The outlook was rather gloomy at the time of starting, and the wind rather cold, but when Niles was reached the clouds had disappeared and the day was definitely fine.

Leaving Niles station about ten-thirty, the party sauntered slowly up the canyon, and lunched on the gravel in the creek bed. After lunch, the walk was resumed and when Farwell was reached, they turned up into Stony Canyon and followed this for perhaps a mile, and then retraced their steps to Niles.

The "early birds" were the Bulloek oriole, blaek-headed grosbeak and yellow warbler. Birds encountered in the canyon were: quail, mourning dove, turkey vulture, sharp-shinned and sparrow hawks, kingfisher, Anna hummer, western flycatcher, California jay and bicolor redwing; meadow-lark, Bullock oriole, Brewer blaekbird, linnet and green-backed goldfinch; golden-crowned sparrow, song sparrow, San Francisco and California towhees, black-headed grosbeak, eliff swallow and warbling vireo; yellow, Audubon and pileolated warblers; Vigors and house wrens, Sierra creeper, bush-tit and wren-tit; Nuttall sparrow and willow goldfinch. Thirty-two species.

Members present were Mesdames Burke, Kibbe, Neugass, Reygadas and Warrington; Mesdemoiselles Ames, Baily, Beaman, H. Burroughs, King, Parker and Stern; Messrs. Kibbe, Rapp and Thomas. As guests, Mrs. Baily, Miss Elma Baily; Messrs. Vandeventer, Ernest Sprague and Gordon Turner. Fifteen members and five guests.

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